

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-30, all of the claims in the subject U.S. patent application, as filed, as constituted by the verified translation of PCT/EP 2004/050648.

Please also cancel claims 1-28 as set forth in the Amendment Under Article 34 filed by KBA on September 9, 2004. Please add new claims 31-58 as follows:

Claims 1-30 (Cancelled)

31. (New) A printing unit of a printing press assembly comprising:

at least one cylinder;

a frame element supporting said at least one cylinder;

rails supporting said frame element;

rollers on said frame element; and

means to move said rollers with respect to said frame element between an extended position where said rollers support said frame element on said rails, and a retracted position where said rails at least in part support said frame element.

32. (New) The printing unit of claim 31 wherein said frame element includes a contact surface different from said rollers, said contact surface being in engagement with said rails when said rollers are in said retracted position, and further including an upright guide rail having first and second sides and being fixedly connected with said frame element and extending in a movement direction of said frame element, and a track guidance device enclosing said two sides of said upright guide rail.

33. (New) The printing unit of claim 31 wherein said rails are stationary.
34. (New) The printing unit of claim 31 wherein said rails are part of a press support.
35. (New) The printing unit of claim 31 wherein each said roller has a roller axis of rotation and said frame element can be moved transversely to said roller axes of rotation.
36. (New) The printing unit of claim 31 wherein said frame element is movable horizontally.
37. (New) The printing unit of claim 31 indicating at least one printing group including said at least one pair of said cylinders defining a printing gap, wherein a first cylinder of said at least one pair of cylinders is supported in a stationary one of said frame elements and a second cylinder of said at least one pair of cylinders is supported in a movable one of said frame elements, said movable frame element being supported by said rollers and being positionable at a distance from said stationary frame element.
38. (New) The printing unit of claim 37 wherein each said frame element includes at least one rubber blanket cylinder as said cylinder defining said printing gap.
39. (New) The printing unit of claim 31 including three of said frame elements, a first one of said frame elements receiving forme cylinders, and wherein blanket cylinders

and inking units assigned to said forme cylinders are received in each of second and third ones of said three frame elements.

40. (New) The printing unit of claim 31 wherein said rails are non-hardened steel.

41. (New) The printing unit of claim 31 further including pivot shafts for said rollers and eccentric shafts supporting said pivot shafts in said frame element.

42. (New) The printing unit of claim 41 further including at least one actuating member for pivoting said rollers about said eccentric shaft.

43. (New) The printing unit of claim 41 further including at least two rollers pivotable about said eccentric shaft and a common, torsion-proof shaft supporting said at least two rollers.

44. (New) The printing unit of claim 41 wherein said frame element includes first and second laterally spaced frame plates, first and second ones of said rollers being attached to said first and second frame plates and being pivotable about a common one of said eccentric shafts.

45. (New) The printing unit of claim 41 further including at least two of said pivot shafts supporting said rollers, said at least two pivot shafts being pivotably coupled by a connecting rod through lever arms.

46. (New) The printing unit of claim 37 wherein said movable frame element includes a protrusion oriented in a direction of movement of said movable frame element, and said stationary frame has a cutout shaped to complement said protrusion, said protrusion and said cutout engaging each other to form a positive connection when said movable frame element and said stationary frame element engage each other.

47. (New) The printing unit of claim 46 wherein said protrusion has a taper directed to a free end of said protrusion and said cutout has a complementary taper.

48. (New) The printing unit of claim 46 wherein said protrusion is a vertical rib and said cutout is a vertical groove.

49. (New) The printing unit of claim 46 wherein said protrusion and said cutout are exchangeably mounted on said frame elements.

50. (New) The printing unit of claim 31 further including an upright guide rail having first and second sides and being connected with said frame element and extending in a travel direction of said frame element, and a track guidance device enclosing said two sides of said upright guide rail.

51. (New) The printing unit of claim 50 wherein said track guidance device includes at least one pair of guide rollers which roll off on said first and second sides of said upright guide rail.

52. (New) The printing unit of claim 37 wherein the printing unit is in a maintenance position where said movable frame element is positioned at a distance from said stationary frame element.

53. (New) A printing unit comprising:

a first movable frame element;

a second stationary frame element, said movable frame element being movable with respect to said stationary frame element in a movement direction;

a toothed rack attached to said movable frame member and extending in said movement direction; and

a self-locking drive mechanism engageable with said toothed rack to move said movable frame element, said self-locking drive mechanism being supported on said stationary frame element and being movable into and out of engagement with said toothed rack.

54. (New) The printing unit of claim 53 including at least one pair of cylinders in the printing unit and defining a printing gap, a first cylinder of said at least one pair of cylinders being supported by said first frame element, a second cylinder of said at least one pair of cylinders being supported by said second frame element and further including rollers supporting said first frame element for movement with respect to said second frame element, said printing unit being usable for recto- and verso-printing.

55. (New) The printing unit of claim 53 including first, second and third frame

elements, said second stationary frame element receiving forme cylinders, said first movable frame element and said third frame element receiving blanket cylinders and inking systems assigned to said forme cylinder.

56. (New) The printing unit of claim 33 wherein said self-locking drive mechanism includes a worm gear.

57. (New) The printing unit of claim 53 further including a pivotable rack supporting said self-locking drive mechanism.

58. (New) A method for moving a frame element of a printing group including:

- providing rails;
- using said rails for supporting the frame element of the printing group;
- lifting said frame element vertically with respect to said rails and out of contact with said rails;
- moving said frame element horizontally with respect to said rails; and
- lowering said frame element vertically with respect to said rails and into contact with said rails.